

Dear Mrs. Coolidge:—

I have been away for a month, moving about and getting mail only occasionally; that must be my excuse for having been so long in acknowledging your kind letter of September 29th, in regard to Dr. Peirce.

I am really delighted to have the information in regard to him which you give me and the pleasant picture of the man which emerges from what you and the people at New Salem have told me. If the key to the herbarium turns up, I shall be much pleased to have that too, for in some cases the information in regard to the specimens which we need for scientific purposes is lacking, and the key might supply it.

Yes, the herbarium was given to us by Gregory Smith, now, as you very likely know, an artist at Old Lyme, Connecticut, and quite accidentally. Mr. Smith was in charge, last summer, of the exhibition of the Old Lyme Art Association, which my wife (who is interested in art) and I are in the habit of visiting. In conversation with him the fact that I am a botanist was casually mentioned; he then told me of the herbarium which he had kept out of sentiment, but now felt, since none of his family were interested, that, if it were of any use, it should be placed in some institution. It proves to be an excellent collection, comprising a good representation of the flora of New Salem beautifully pressed and mounted and accurately named. Some of the specimens are from localities now under the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir.

The collection probably was made between 1840 and 1850; the style and paper of the book and the fact that he obviously used in naming his plants works of John Torrey, the latest of which was published in 1843, indicate that. Had they been worked up much after 1850 he would almost certainly have used Gray's or Wood's manual.

With my hearty thanks,

Sincerely yours,

C. A. Weatherby.

Mr. Weatherby died before the work was completed but Mr. F. W. Hunnewell has recently had the plants mounted and at long last, after a hundred years, the painstaking work of an amateur botanist has come to rest in a place where it may be useful.

FLOWERING ARUNDINARIA GIGANTEA IN ILLINOIS.—Botanists and plant collectors are aware of erratic and infrequent flowering of *Arundinaria gigantea* (Walt.) Muhl.; a species of cane usually found in lowland areas which may be flooded annually. During early July 1951 the writer visited an area west of Sandusky in Alexander County, Illinois, in which two colonies of cane were observed. In this locality *A. gigantea* produced short, leafy, flowering culms profusely, but another colony about 500 yards distant showed no flowering culms.

According to some authorities each species of cane has been thought to flower at the same time over considerable areas. With this prevalent idea in mind a visit was made to other localities in Gallatin, Pope, Massac, and Pulaski counties in which *A. gigantea* grows. None of the localities explored showed colonies with flowering culms.

Temperatures in this southern portion of Illinois were far below normal during the past winter. Most upper portions of the cane are dead, and such a killing back of sterile branches was very likely caused by sub-normal winter conditions. Mrs. Agnes Chase, in a communication, reported a collection of flowering culms of *A. tecta* (Walt.) Muhl. in southeastern Virginia where "the canebroke had been cut through to make a road, and the canes along the cut had sent up great numbers of the flowering basal shoots." When flowering culms were first observed in the Alexander County locality it was thought that killing of the upper parts of sterile branches might have induced abundant production of flowering culms in other southern Illinois areas, but observation has revealed that this is not the case. Throughout its range in Illinois *A. gigantea* has not flowered simultaneously this season. Destruction of sterile shoots is evidently only one of the factors which causes flowering. It will be interesting to keep this same locality and colony under observation during subsequent years, and to report on its behavior.

Specimens of flowering *A. gigantea* from the Alexander County locality have been deposited in herbaria of the following institutions: (No. 7214) Illinois State Museum, University of Illinois, United States National Herbarium, Chicago Natural History Museum, and (No. 7266) Gray Herbarium.—GLEN S. WINTER-RINGER, ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

ARIZONA FLORA¹.—While residents of many of our states have no manual or other guide-book devoted to the plants growing within the borders of their states, the people of Arizona are fortunate in having several. Treating special categories of plants are *The Cacti of Arizona* by Lyman Benson, and a *Manual of Southwestern Desert Trees and Shrubs* by Benson and Robert A. Darrow, both excellent sources of information. Discounting

¹ *Arizona Flora*. By Thomas H. Kearney, Robert H. Peebles, and collaborators. viii + 1032 pages, 45 photographs on 32 pages, colored frontispiece. University of California Press. Berkeley, 1951. \$7.50.